



VIRGINIA CITIZEN CORPS UPDATE

May 2007

UPCOMING EVENTS

-HURRICANE SEASON



It's that time of the year again! The 2007 Hurricane Season is only a month away. Do you know where your disaster kit is? Does your family have a plan? Have you brushed up on your emergency preparedness skills? If not, now is the time. Once again, NOAA is predicting a busy hurricane season. Check out www.vaemergency.com to see how you can prepare for potential threats. Also, watch for and participate in any preparedness events taking place in your locality, and if you are sponsoring an event, we'd love to hear about it! Send your information to Suzanne.simmons@vdem.virginia.gov !

-CERT TTT COURSES

Virginia's Citizen Corps Office is offering two CERT Train the Trainer courses this summer. The first offering is May 18-19 in Wise County and the second is in Hampton from June 8-9. If you or anyone in your locality are interested in this training, visit www.vaemergency.com to register. Please remember that you must meet the following prerequisites: Completion of the Basic CERT classroom course OR the Online version of IS 317 Introduction to CERT AND a letter of recommendation by your local emergency coordinator. Proof of qualification or recommendation will be required prior to training. If you have any questions, please contact the State CERT Coordinator, Sharon Woo at sharon.woo@vdem.virginia.gov.

-Teen CERT

Teen CERT is also coming to Virginia this summer! The course is similar to the adult version, but caters specifically to a younger audience and is designed to teach emergency preparedness skills to students 17 or younger. **Stay tuned** for more information on the upcoming invitation only **Teen CERT** Train-the-Trainer course! If you are interested in participating and you already teach with a local Virginia CERT program and have completed both the basic CERT and the Virginia CERT TtT training, send an Email of interest to sharon.woo@vdem.virginia.gov

- NATIONAL CITIZEN CORPS CONFERENCE – June 10-13

The deadline to register for the **2007 National Conference on Community Preparedness: Partnership and Collaboration through Citizen Corps** is fast approaching. This year, the conference is co-hosted by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) and the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) and will be held from June 10-13 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, in Alexandria, VA. FEMA director David Paulison is this year's keynote speaker. Visit <http://www.citizencorps.org> for more details.

-2006 CCP Grant Allocations

Virginia has \$834,038 in FY 2006 federal grant funding to support state and local Citizen Corps programs and activities. Thanks to all who submitted an application for the **2006 CCP** grant funds! Our office is currently in the process of processing your application requests and we will be notifying you soon about your award.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



-JIM DAVIS

This month's spotlight shone brightly in New Orleans at the National Hurricane Conference where Pittsylvania CERT Coordinator Jim Davis received the National **2007 Alan Clive Spirit and Service Award** for his outstanding work with local deaf communities. Determined to prepare all of his county residents for emergencies even though he had very little funding, Davis formed innovative local community partnerships with Danville Community College, the Danville Lions Club and Virginia Citizen Corps. These partnerships and others provided funding for weather alert radios with visual alarms and sign language interpreters for CERT training. The radios were distributed to deaf residents and the interpreters were incorporated into the regular county CERT training – giving both hearing and deaf participants the opportunity to train and exercise together, as they would in a real-time event! **Kudos to Jim for all of his wonderful and ground-breaking efforts!**

-Leslie Little

Also of note this month is **HELPU Fire & Life Safety At-Risk Safety Trainer** and State Citizen Corps Council member Leslie Little. **HELPU Fire & Life Safety** focuses on preparedness training for vulnerable populations, such as those with physical disabilities, or the non-English speaking. Read more at <http://www.inrich.com/cva/ric/search.apx.-content-articles-RTD-2007-04-26-0166.html> and www.helpufiresafety.org.

MOVIE TIME



-The War Room... features local talent

This new video outlines Community Emergency Response Teams' importance and challenges. Cynthia Kellams, CERT volunteer program coordinator for Arlington County, and Millicent Williams, executive director of *Serve D.C.*, are featured in the film describing the need for citizen responders and explaining the funding challenges they face. The video also shows Arlington County CERT members during a training exercise. The video was produced by Homeland Defense Week.

View the 15-minute video:

<http://www.homelanddefenseweek.com/Blogmain/TheWarRoom/CERT/FrontlineCERT.html>.

...And, if you still have some popcorn left over, sit back and watch these movie picks recommended by local Citizen Corps folks...



-Obsession The Movie

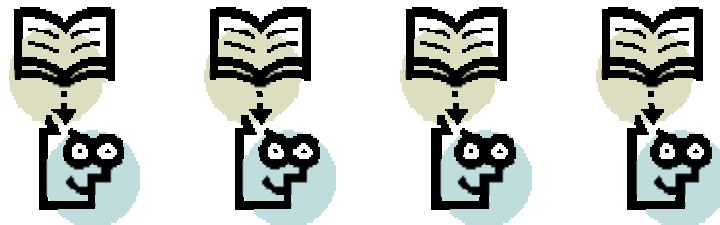
Interested in learning more about terrorism with a concentration on radical Islam- a minority of the followers in the Muslim religion? Take a look at the 12-minute trailer for the following movie: <http://www.obsessionthemovie.com/index1.php>.

-Dirty Bomb

Created by the BBC to educate United Kingdom residents about possible terrorist attacks, *Dirty War* is a hypothetical scenario of a radiological dirty bomb attack in downtown London. Extensive research went into the making of the film and its initial airing was followed by live a Question and Answer session. The 90-minute movie can be purchased at <http://www.amazon.com/Dirty-War-Gavin-Abbott/dp/B0007R4SX>.

...Thanks again to Cynthia Kellams from Arlington and to Margaret Tucker from James-City County for providing these links!

RESOURCES



-Ready Initiative

Is your locality in need of preparedness publications? If so, please visit www.ready.gov for a variety of emergency preparedness literature catering to pets, families, special needs and much more. Also, be sure to visit www.readykids.gov for information on preparing children in your community.

Look for more updates each month!

*If you have an event or item you would like us to include in the Virginia Citizen Corps Email Update please email it to suzanne.simmons@vdem.virginia.gov Be sure to include the phrase **Virginia Citizen Corps Update** in the subject field!*

We thank you again for all of your efforts and your dedication to preparedness in Virginia!

Sincerely,

The Virginia Citizen Corps Office – Suzanne, Sharon & Cheena!

www.vaemergency.com

www.citizencorps.gov